main constituents of the GDP. Skill training in these sectors is being provided by various Ministries/Departments and also by private training providers. It is presumed that production and productivity increase on employing skilled workforce. It has now become imperative to use skilled workforce due to rapid technological advancement and changing global manufacturing practices.

DGE&T under Ministry of Labour & Employment has taken following initiatives during 2004-05 to 2006-07 for upgradation of Government Industrial Training Institutes in the country:

(i) Upgradation of one hundred Govt. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) with domestic funding at a cost of Rs. 160 crore.

(ii) Upgradation of 400 Govt. ITIs with World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs. 1581 crore.

Amendment in the Plantation Labour Act

1737. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to amend the Plantation Labour Act, which is pending since so many years;

(b) whether it is a fact that Assam Government has not been able to implement the Gratuity Act for the Tea Worker of Assam since last two years;

(c)if so, the reason therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to amend the Bonus Act; and

(e) if so, what is the present position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Assam is responsible for proper implementation of the statutory provisions of the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 in respect of the industrial establishments including the tea estates falling under State spheres. The Government of Assam is enforcing the implementation of these provisions through the enforcement agencies under the Commissioner of Labour.

Some confusion arose in between about the authority of the enforcement machinery under Labour Commissioner to enforce the provisions of Gratuity Act with a perception that implementation of this Act for tea establishments will be the responsibility of Assam Tea Plantation Provident Fund and Pension Fund (ATPPF&PF). The matter has been made clear *vide* Government of Assam's Notification No. GLR37/93/43 dated 6th October, 2007 and No. GLR37/93/42 dated 6th October, 2007, wherein the enforcement agencies of Labour Commissioner has been asked to look after the implementation of Gratuity Act for both non tea establishments as well as tea establishments.

Thus, it was a brief period in the year 2006-07, when there was some gap in monitoring the implementation of various provisions of Gratuity Act for tea establishments only.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has been introduced in the Parliament so as to replace the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Ordinance promulgated on 27th October, 2007, by an Act of Parliament.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.